AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-42. (cancelled):

43.(previously amended): A switch station, which exchanges a packet with a predetermined format, comprising:

a switch exchanging the packet;

a control processor controlling operations of this switch station;

an intra-station device, provided within this switch station, performing a communication operating according to the control information from said control processor; and

an interface unit converting a data format of the control information into a data format which said switch can exchange;

wherein the control information is communicated through said switch,

the control information is communicated according to link access protocol, and

said interface unit converts the data format of the control information into the data format processed by the switch station, adds to the control information such routing information as can be identified by the switch station and routed by said interface unit at a receiving equipment, and transmits the information to the switch station.

44.(previously amended) The switch station according to claim 43, wherein

said intra-station device comprises identifying means for identifying whether received data is subscriber data or the control information; and

said intra-station device transmits the data after adding routing information, when said identifying means has received the subscribed data, to received subscriber data to be routed

to a destination, and after adding the routing information, when said identifying means has received the control information, to received control information to be routed to said interface unit at said receiving equipment.

Claim 45. (cancelled):

46. (previously amended): The switch station according to claim 94 wherein said control information packet contains a command code and address data to be processed by said direct memory access means.

47. (currently amended): The switch station according to claim [[, 94]] 94, wherein said control information packet is assigned routing information to allow a switch in the exchange station to be identified and route the control information cell through a path accommodating said direct memory access means or the terminal unit.

48. (previously amended): The switch station according to claim 94, wherein output of said direct memory access means is connected to a multiplexing circuit connected to an input highway of the exchange station.

Claims 49 (cancelled):

50.(previously amended): The switch station according to claim 95, wherein

said control processor checks for a fault in the device connected to the control processor according to the test program.

Claims 51-52. (cancelled):

53.(currently amended): A switch station for testing an exchange station for switching cells, comprising in the exchange station:

software executing means for executing software for sending, looping back, and receiving a test cell;

test cell inserting/extracting means for conducting an inter-station loopback test in a switch network by directly inserting the test cell generated by the ~~softrware~~ software executed by said software executing means into an inter-station connection device for switching data between stations in a switch network containing the exchange station, or by directly extracting the test cell from the inter-station connection device, wherein

said test cell stores information specifying forward and backward paths of the est cell, and

said software executed by said software executing means conducts an inter-station loopback test in the switching network according to the information specifying the forward and backward paths of the test cell.

54.(currently amended): A switch station for testing an exchange station for switching cells, comprising in the exchange station:

software executing means for executing software for sending, looping back, and receiving a test cell;

test cell inserting/extracting means for conducting an inter-station loopback test in a switch network by directly inserting the test cell generated by the ~~softrware~~ software executed by said software executing means into an inter-station connection device for switching data between stations in a switch network containing the exchange station, or by directly extracting the test cell from the inter-station connection device, wherein

said test cell stores information specifying source and destination station telephone numbers of the test cell, and

said software executed by said software executing means conducts an inter-station loopback test in the switching network according to the information specifying the source and destination station telephone numbers of the test cell.

Claims 55-91. (cancelled):

92.(currently amended) A switch station; which exchanges a fixed-length packet with a predetermined format, comprising:

a switch exchanging the fixed-length packet;

a control processor generating control information to control operations of this switch station;

an intra-station device, provided within this switch station, performing a communication ~~operating~~ operation according to the control information from said control processor; and

an interface unit converting a data format of the control information into a data format of the fixed-length packet which said switch can exchange;

wherein the control information generated by said control processor is sent from interface unit to said intra-station device through said switch after the data format of the control information is converted ~~into the data format which said switch can exchange by said interface unit~~.

93.(previously amended): The switch station according to claim 92, wherein the control information is communicated according to link access protocol.

94.(previously added): A switch station, which exchanges a packet with a predetermined format, comprising;

a switch exchanging the packet;

a control processor controlling operations of this switch station;

a memory storing control information; and

direct memory access unit directly writing to or reading from said memory the control information; wherein

said control processor transmits a control packet with the predetermined format via said switch to a terminal which is connected to this switch station, and wherein

the terminal reads the control information from said memory using said direct memory access unit according to the received control packet and performs an operation according to the control information.

95.(previously added): A switch station, which exchanges a packet with a predetermined format, comprising:

an output port which connects to an output highway;

an input port which connects to an input highway;

a memory storing a program for a loopback test; and

a control processor performing the loopback test by executing the program, wherein

the output highway and input highway are connected to a loopback device during the loopback test.